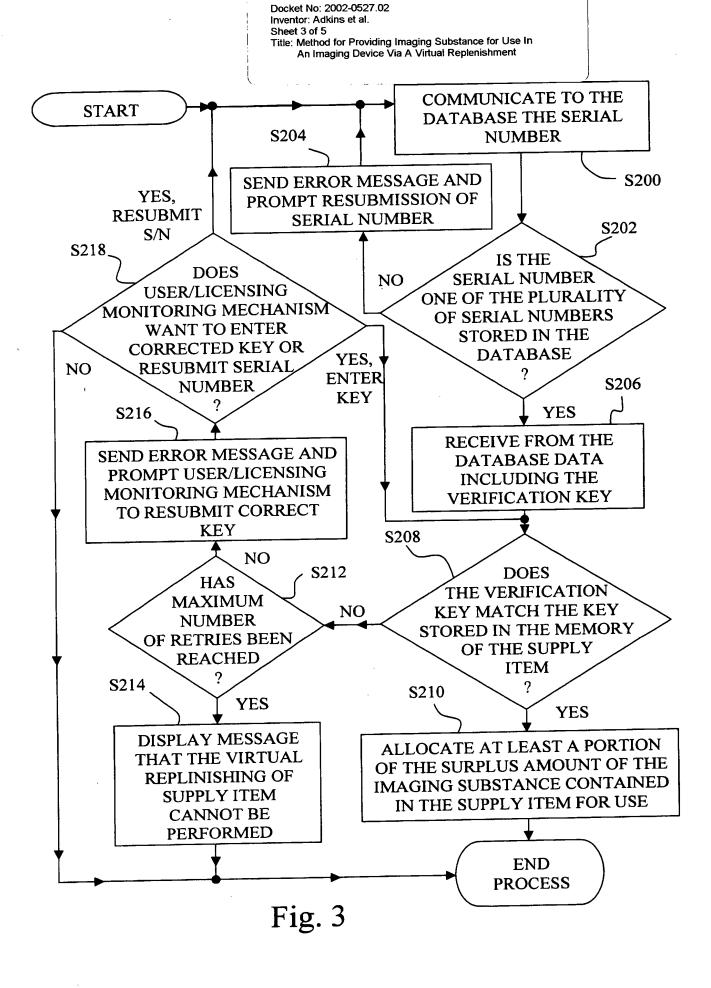


Fig. 1

Sheet 2 of 5 Title: Method for Providing Imaging Substance for Use In An Imaging Device Via A Virtual Replenishment PROVIDE A SUPPLY ITEM CONTAINING AN ACTUAL SUPPLY OF THE IMAGING SUBSTANCE. THE ACTUAL SUPPLY INCLUDING A LICENSED S100 AMOUNT OF THE IMAGING SUBSTANCE AND A SURPLUS AMOUNT OF THE IMAGING SUBSTANCE S102 ASSOCIATE A MEMORY WITH THE SUPPLY ITEM PROVIDE A DATABASE LOCATED REMOTE FROM THE MEMORY HAVING A PLURALITY OF STORAGE LOCATIONS S104 FOR STORING A PLURALITY OF SERIAL NUMBERS AND A PLURALITY OF KEYS FOR A PLURALITY OF SUPPLY ITEMS S106 GENERATE A SERIAL NUMBER FOR THE SUPPLY ITEM S108 GENERATE A KEY ASSOCIATED WITH THE SERIAL NUMBER S110 STORE AT LEAST THE KEY IN THE MEMORY ASSOCIATED WITH THE SUPPLY ITEM S112 STORE THE SERIAL NUMBER IN THE DATABASE S114 STORE THE KEY IN THE DATABASE AS A VERIFICATION KEY S116 INSTALL THE SUPPLY ITEM IN THE IMAGING DEVICE FOR USE IN IMAGING S118 PROVIDE THE SUPPLY ITEM WITH A VIRTUAL REPLENISHING OF THE IMAGING SUBSTANCE

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Fig. 2



Title: Method for Providing Imaging Substance for Use In An Imaging Device Via A Virtual Replenishment PROVIDE A SUPPLY ITEM CONTAINING AN ACTUAL SUPPLY OF THE IMAGING SUBSTANCE. THE ACTUAL SUPPLY INCLUDING A LICENSED S300 AMOUNT OF THE IMAGING SUBSTANCE AND A SURPLUS AMOUNT OF THE IMAGING SUBSTANCE S302 ASSOCIATE A MEMORY WITH THE SUPPLY ITEM PROVIDE A MECHANISM LOCATED REMOTE FROM THE MEMORY FOR ASSOCIATING A PLURALITY OF SERIAL S304 NUMBERS WITH A RESPECTIVE PLURALITY OF KEYS FOR A PLURALITY OF SUPPLY ITEMS S306 GENERATE A SERIAL NUMBER FOR THE SUPPLY ITEM S308 GENERATE A KEY BASED ON THE SERIAL NUMBER S310 STORE AT LEAST THE KEY IN THE MEMORY ASSOCIATED WITH THE SUPPLY ITEM S312 INSTALL THE SUPPLY ITEM IN THE IMAGING DEVICE FOR USE IN IMAGING S314

PROVIDE THE SUPPLY ITEM WITH A VIRTUAL REPLENISHING OF THE IMAGING SUBSTANCE

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Fig. 4

